information. We narrow it. We start, and I've used the analogy
of a funnel. We start with something broad that's currently out
there and we narrow it till we get the kinds of information then
that we can get our arms around, that we can make decisions. So
I'll say 924 does not involve dozens of new appointments. The
only new piece is the community council, because there's never
been a forum for community interests, to get involved with the
state's strategy on technology, and this is an essential piece.
Excuse me.   The communities that had a place to go, a forum
where they can collectively get together and try to work out how
they can again interconnect with schools or hospitals or
libraries, and they need that.   The NITC commission was
previously established by the Legislature, and I repeat that.
The   NITC   commission   was   previously established by the
Legislature, and recommended the concept continue so the new
NITC...and we have a study that shows that. The bill was
introduced by Senator Withem.   It was for two years, it was
extended for two years, and they had the study. And was the N
Information Technology Commission. And the new NITC is simply a
reconfiguration and an extension of the body   previously
established by this Legislature.   The education council is
constructed nearly identical to the current NEB*SAT planning
council.   As the education council phases in, the NEB*SAT
planning council will phase out.   The information resources
cabinet, or government council as it's referred to, is simply a
way to organize a group of agency directors that have already
been appointed and confirmed by the Legislature. There are
funding streams that correspond to the three councils, and a
forum is needed in each case to coordinate needs assessment and
proposed projects and prioritize them for the consideration by
the NITC, the Governor and the Legislature. There are several
existing sources of funding for educational technology, and
funds for government collaboration and community technology are
established in 924.   Those are two funds that are being
established, the community and the state government. And the
councils associated with these three areas   need   to   be
established and operating...

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...with continuity in order to make the
assessment of the projects by the NITC manageable and effective.